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Kernan Awards \$200,000 Training Grant to Hill-Rom

INDIANAPOLIS—Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that Ripley County's Hill-Rom, Inc. has been awarded \$200,000 from the Indiana Department of Commerce's Skills Enhancement Fund to assist in upgrading the skills of 1,858 existing employees.

Owned by Hillenbrand Industries, the company produces medical patient products and provides specialized therapy related services. In addition, it offers room furniture and modular wall systems, plus medical gas management services.

"Hill-Rom has a long history of producing quality products in Indiana since they began in 1929," said Kernan, who leads the state's economic development efforts. "Investing in workforce skills is fundamental to the success of any business, and we're proud to support this company in its efforts."

The Commerce grant will be used to retrain incumbent workers following a \$94.14 million investment in building improvements and equipment. Hill-Rom will install a totally new software planning system, as well as machinery and equipment. Employees will receive on-the-job training and instruction on standardized operating procedures, quality control and other computer skills as a result of the grant.

"Hill-Rom is focused on achieving strong growth and we understand that investing in our business operations and our people will be the key to our continued success," said Scott Silver, Hill-Rom's vice president of human resources. "We are very pleased to have been awarded this grant in recognition of our efforts."

Commerce awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund or other Commerce programs should contact the Business Development Division at 800.463.8081 or access its Web site at www.indianacommerce.com.

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